

Discipleship Shoplight: Madison Mamas

How long has the ministry been going?

Madison Mamas is starting its 9th ministry year this fall.

How often do you meet and what happens in each meeting?

During the school year, we meet on the 2nd Friday of each month in the Gathering Room at the Square. Our gathering time is structured from 7-9pm with an additional hour at the end, for those who want to stay and socialize. At the beginning of our gathering, we spend time in fellowship while enjoying a snack. We open our study time with introductions and end with prayer requests. Each ministry year, we change our study focus, and it has varied from scripture study to discussion of a Christian parenting book to sharing personal testimonies. We also make an effort to meet socially on a monthly basis, either in-person or via video conferencing. During the summer, we take a break from our structured gatherings and only meet socially.

What does your discipling relationship look like? How do you help one another?

We listen, relate, support, and guide. We're all in the same stage of life--taking care of one or more children who are elementary-aged or younger. It's a unique time, when the ways we were once accustomed to balancing life prior to children have changed and continue to evolve. Women who have been navigating their walk with God and raising children longer than others are able to listen and guide those who are newer to this journey. Regardless of our own ages or our children's, we can relate to each other and be vulnerable in this group in a way that may not be so easily accomplished in other settings.

How has this relationship helped each of you to love and follow Jesus and become more like Jesus in your attitudes and actions?

In parenting, you find out very quickly that you have major influence in a child's life. God has gifted us with biblical instructions on how to raise our children and love them, as He loves us. This is both beautiful and overwhelming, especially in today's world. We recognize that we fall short daily, even hourly, and need Jesus. We extend God's grace to each other and guide one another with tangible ways to make changes in our lives to become more Christ-like. Being a part of this community and having a space to be mutually vulnerable provides us an opportunity to learn and grow in God's word and who we are as mamas at Madison. As we become more like Jesus in our attitudes and actions, we continually share Jesus with our children and each other.

Note: If you have questions about Madison Mamas or would like to be included on our email list, please contact Vanessa Cumings at vanessa.anne.dc@gmail.com.